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BAT-MAN



A MIND-BOGGLING MYSTERY:
"THE ONLY CRIME
IN TOWN!"

30c
NO. 280
OCT.
30430

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BAT-MAN

ONE
O'CLOCK!

TIME FOR CRIME TO
**STOP DEAD IN
GOTHAM CITY!**



ERNIE
CHAY
1974



BATMAN, Vol. 37, No. 280, Oct., 1978. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y., and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1978 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: National Periodical Publications, Inc., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735. Rate \$3 in U.S.A. (\$4 elsewhere). Subscription is for consecutive issues totalling \$3.00 of their cover prices.

A Grant Gardner Scan - God Bless Our Troops and our Allies.

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 355 Lexington Avenue
 New York, N.Y. 10017
 (212) 391-1400

TIME: 12:55 A.M.
THE SETUP--
THE MAIN OFFICE
OF ROYAL
PUBLISHING
ALL THE ELEMENTS
ARE IN PLACE
FOR A CLASSIC
CONFRONTATION
BETWEEN CRIME
IN GOTHAM
CITY AND ITS
IMPLACABLE FOE--
THE BATMAN!

HURRY, TORCH--
WE GOT ONLY
FIVE MINUTES
LEFT!

REMEMBER WHAT
HAPPENED TO AUGIE
FOR PULLIN' THE
LARABEE JOB
AFTER HOURS!

IT'S TAKIN'
LONGER
THAN I
THOUGHT!

WRONG!

YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE STARTED
AT ALL!

THE
BATMAN!





TIME: 1:35 A.M.
THE BATMAN'S
ACCOUNT OF THE
BAFFLING
EPISODE
INTRIGUES
A ROUTINE
PRESS
BRIEFING
AT POLICE
HEADQUARTERS...



FROM WHAT I'D
OVERHEARD--ESPECIALLY
THAT OMINOUS REMARK
ABOUT AUGIE'S FATE--

--THEY WERE
FEARFUL OF
CONTINUING
PAST THAT
HOUR!

EXTRAORDINARY!
LET'S CHECK
THIS OUT!

WITHIN MOMENTS,
A QUICK ANALYSIS
OF THE DEPARTMENT'S
CITYWIDE LOG
REVEALS SOME
REMARKABLE
STATISTICS!

LOOK AT THIS!
FOR A WEEK--
INCLUDING TONIGHT--
THERE HASN'T BEEN
A MAJOR CRIME
COMMITTED BETWEEN
ONE AND TWO A.M.!

SURE--SOME
MUGGINGS, STICKUPS,
CRIMES OF PASSION...
BUT NOTHING BIG,
NOTHING ORGANIZED--
WITH ONE EXCEPTION...

...THE LARABEE JOB--
FOUR NIGHTS AGO, WHERE
THE ALARM WENT OFF AT
1:24--AND FROM WHAT YOU
HEARD--

--WAS PULLED
BY AUGIE, WHO WAS
KILLED THE NEXT
DAY, SHOT TO
DEATH, MOBSTER
STYLE--

--AS IF A
CRIME-
CURFEW
HAD BEEN
ORDERED...
BETWEEN
ONE AND
TWO A.M.!

WHEN AUGIE
VIOLATED
IT, HE WAS
EXECUTED!

WHO COULD
ISSUE SUCH
AN ORDER--
AND BE ABLE
TO ENFORCE
IT?

AND WHY?

GENTLEMEN,
YOU'LL BE
AMONG THE
FIRST TO KNOW--
WHEN I FIND
OUT!

ADIOS!

CONTINUED ON 388 PAGE FOLLOWING.

NEXT MORNING...
THE PENTHOUSE
HOME OF BRUCE
WAYNE--MILLION-
AIRE SOCIALITE,
PLAYBOY,
PHILANTHROPIST--
AND PUBLIC
COUNTERPART
OF THE BATMAN...



SEEN THE
PAPERS, ALFRED?
"MYSTERIOUS
CRIME CURFEW
HITS GOTHAM!"



"POLICE ACKNOWLEDGE
EXISTENCE OF A
MYSTERIOUS TRUCE IN
CRIME-- A QUIET
HOUR, BETWEEN
ONE AND TWO A.M..."

YES, MASTER
BRUCE... QUITE
A SPLASH!

THERE ARE THREE OR
FOUR BOSSES IN THIS
TOWN WITH MUSCLE
ENOUGH TO IMPOSE
SUCH A CURFEW AND
MAKE IT STICK!



BUT THE ONE
BEHIND IT MAY
WELL HAVE LEFT
A CALLING CARD--
IN AUGIE'S
CORPSE!

EARLY THAT NIGHT, THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT'S BALLISTICS
BUREAU...



WE GOT FOUR
SLUGS, BATMAN--
ONE IN FAIR
SHAPE... 25 CALIBER,
LEFT-TWIST RIFLING
--VERY UNUSUAL...

A SPANISH
DERRINGER!
MAXIE FLACK'S
FAVORITE--

--AND MAXIE
WORKS FOR
BIG JAKE
HACKETT!

HOURS PASS...
FROM HIS
VANTAGE POINT,
THE BATMAN'S
PATIENT
SURVEILLANCE
CONTINUES...
FOCUSED ON
THE COMINGS
AND GOINGS
BELOW AT THE
LOTUSLAND
CLUB...
OPERATIONAL
CENTER FOR THE
BIG JAKE
HACKETT
GANG...



SO FAR,
NOTHING!



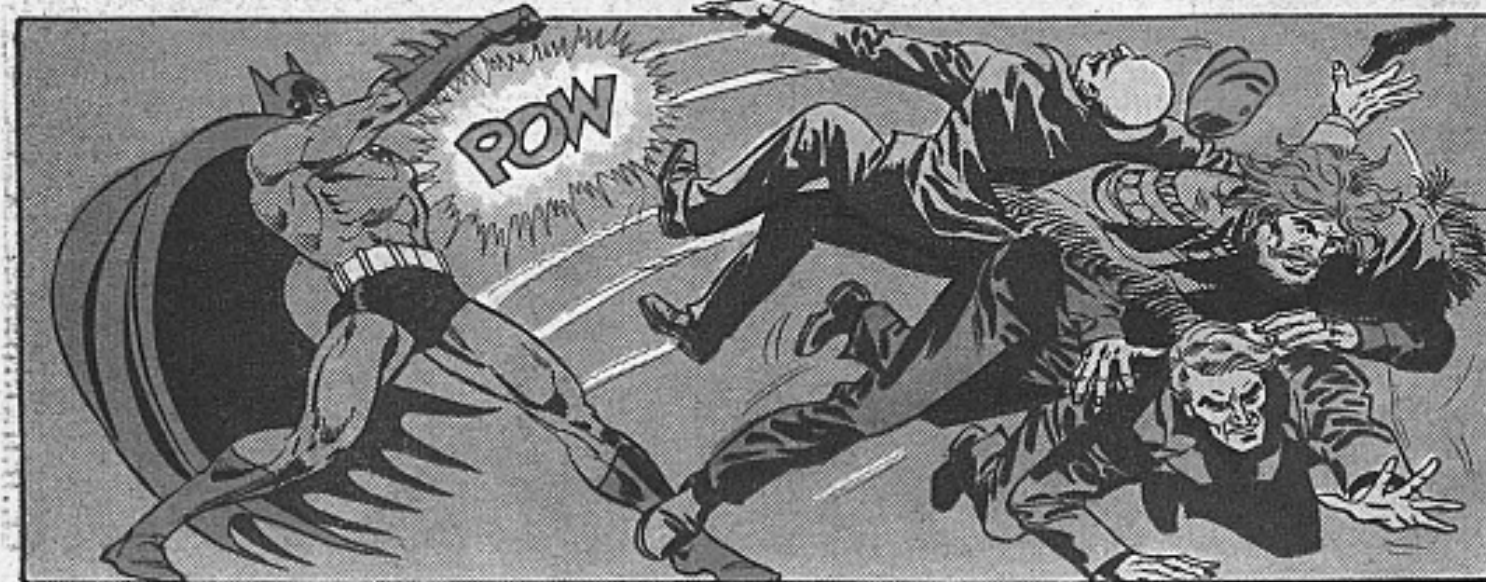
BUT THE
CRITICAL TIME--
IF ANY--IS
STILL AHEAD...

TIME: 12:50 A.M.



A TRUCK--
TAKING OFF FROM
THE CLUB'S
PARKING LOT--
JUST BEFORE
CURFEW!

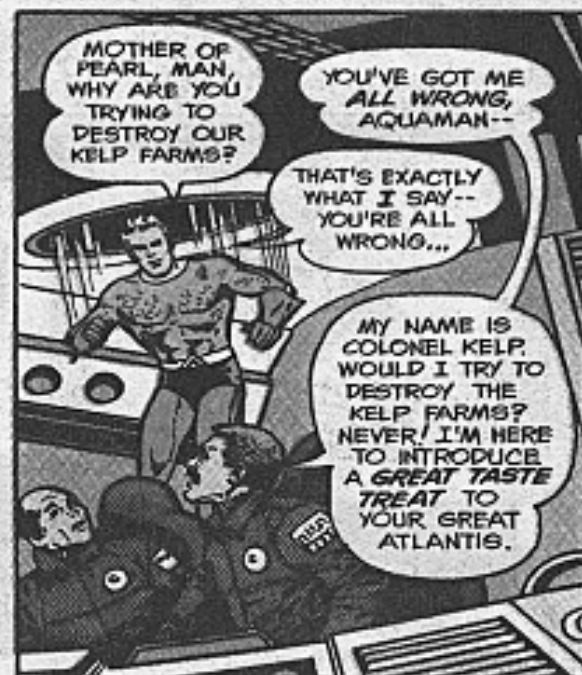








CONTINUED ON 354 PAGE FOLLOWING.



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ON
YOUR
NEWSSTAND--
THIS
SUMMER!

A NEW STAR IS RISING IN THE DC GALAXY OF GREATNESS! WE'VE SHOCKED YOU WITH OUR SUPER-STAR HEROES--NOW WE'RE GOING TO THRILL YOU AGAIN--WITH THE--

DC TV SERIES



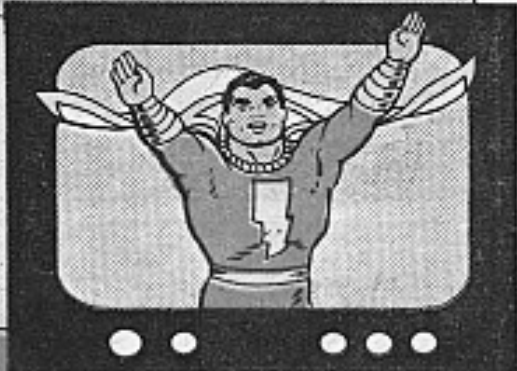
SHAZAM!

THE BROOKLYN
BRIDGE--STOLEN!

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST

MORTAL ON A CRIME-FIGHTING CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNEY...A NEW LIFE FOR BILLY BATSON... AND THEN SIVANA KIDNAPS THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS! CAN OUR SATURDAY MORNING SUPER-STAR KEEP AMERICA FROM PLUNGING INTO LEADERLESS CHAOS?

SHAZAM
#26--
ON SALE
AUGUST
12TH!



ISIS!

SPRINGING FROM SHAZAM TO HER OWN MAG... AND INTO DEADLY DANGER FROM THE SINISTER SCARAB! WILL ANDREA THOMAS' SECRET BE REVEALED TO THE WORLD... AND WILL SHE EVEN LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT?

ISIS #1--
ON SALE
NOW!

WELCOME BACK, KOTTER!

THE
SWEATHOGS ARE
SWEATING IT OUT--THEY'RE
ABOUT TO LOSE THEIR LEADER!

NO, MR. WOODMAN HASN'T CANNED KOTTER--KOTTER'S QUITTING! WILL JAMES BUCHANAN HIGH EVER BE THE SAME?

WELCOME
BACK,
KOTTER--
#1--ON
SALE AUG.
5TH!



SUPER FRIENDS!

SUPER-HEROES HAVE SUPER-HELPERS-- BUT SO DO THE SUPER-VILLAINS! FIVE FURIOUS FOES-- BACKED BY A SINISTER SECOND TEAM. BUT THERE'S A GREATER DANGER STILL--A TRAITOR WITHIN THE HALL OF JUSTICE ITSELF!

SUPER
FRIENDS
#1--ON
SALE AUG.
26TH!





CONTINUED ON 5th PAGE FOLLOWING



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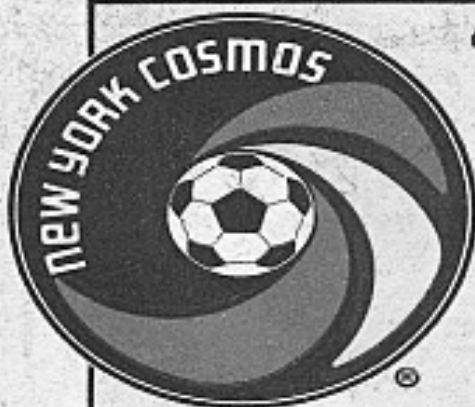
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JULY 18	WASHINGTON	SUN. 2PM
JULY 28	DALLAS	WED. 7:30
AUG 10	MIAMI	TUES. 7:30



**PRESENT THIS COUPON AT TICKET BOOTHS ON DAY OF GAME
NOT FOR RESALE - ONE PERSON PER COUPON.**

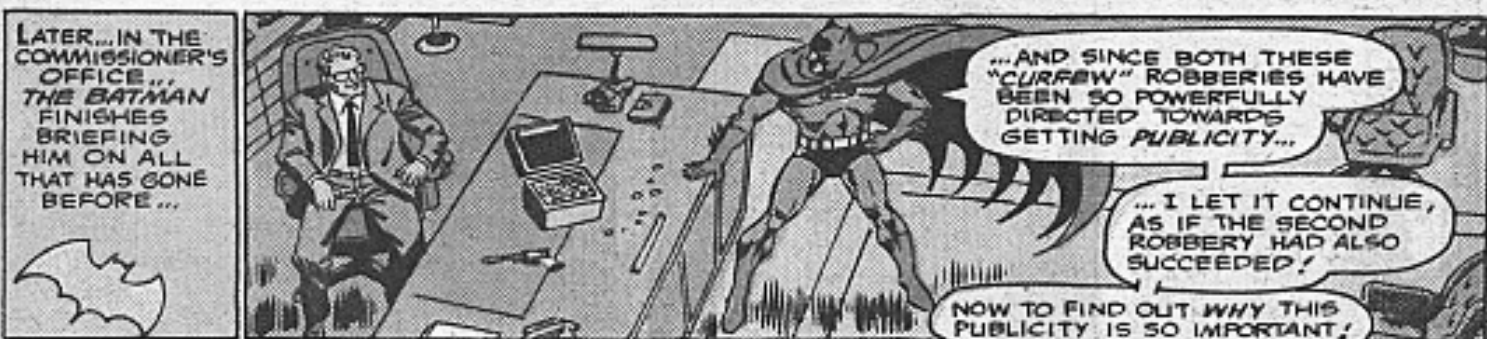




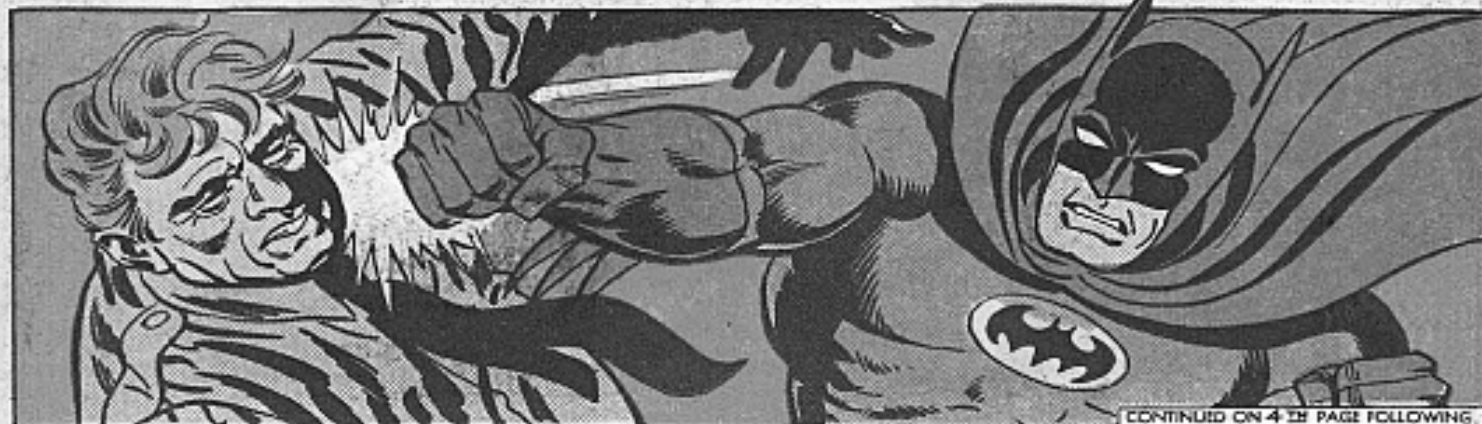
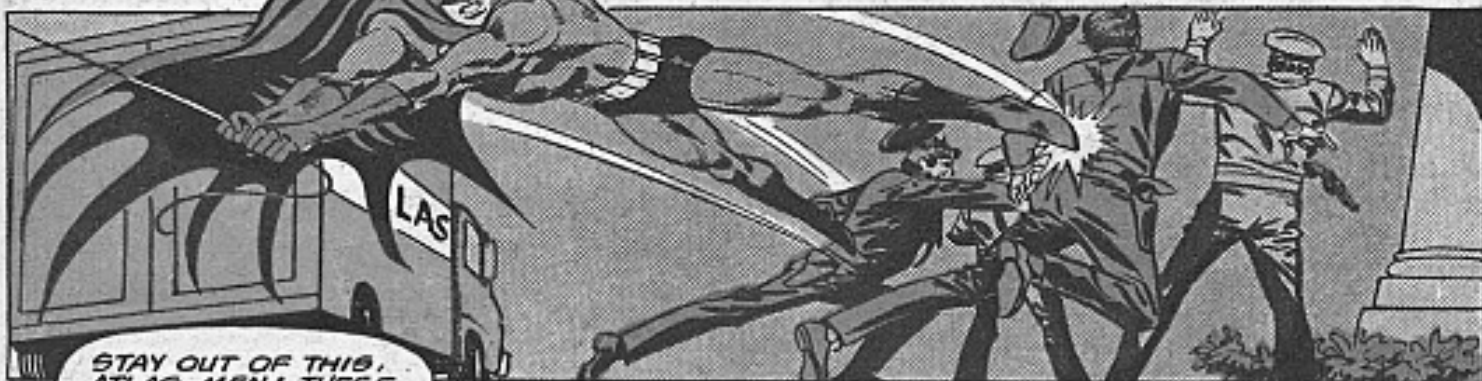


ONE MOVE AND THE WHOLE JOINT BLOWS!









CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING



WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

SOME KIDS FROM ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD DID THIS!

FOR NO REASON!

BUT THE POLICE CAUGHT THEM IN THE ACT!



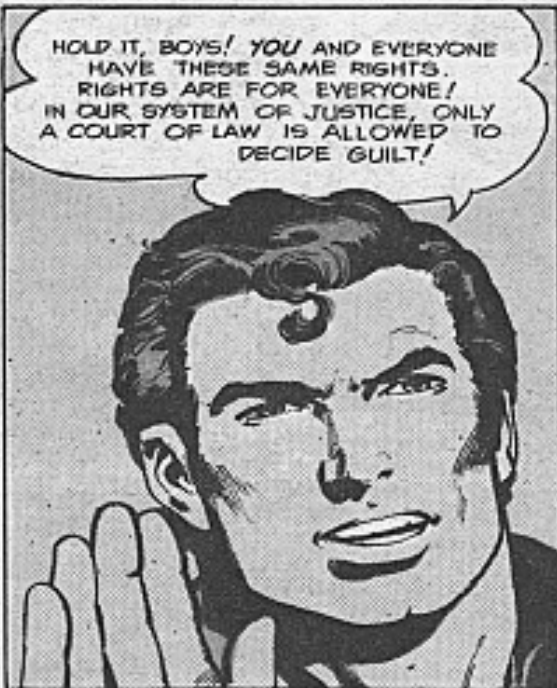
SO THEY'VE BEEN ARRESTED?

YEAH, BUT THE POLICEMEN SEEMED TO BE ON THEIR SIDE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



THEY READ THEM THEIR RIGHTS, TOLD THEM THAT THEY HAD A RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT, AND HAD A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY. WELL ... WHAT ABOUT US?



HOLD IT, BOYS! YOU AND EVERYONE HAVE THESE SAME RIGHTS. RIGHTS ARE FOR EVERYONE! IN OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE, ONLY A COURT OF LAW IS ALLOWED TO DECIDE GUILT!



TO MAKE SURE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE, THE RULES MUST BE THE SAME FOR EVERYONE. SO, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO KNOW HIS RIGHTS.



NOW - WHY DON'T WE CLEAN UP SOME OF THIS MESS.



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BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT!

BATMANIA

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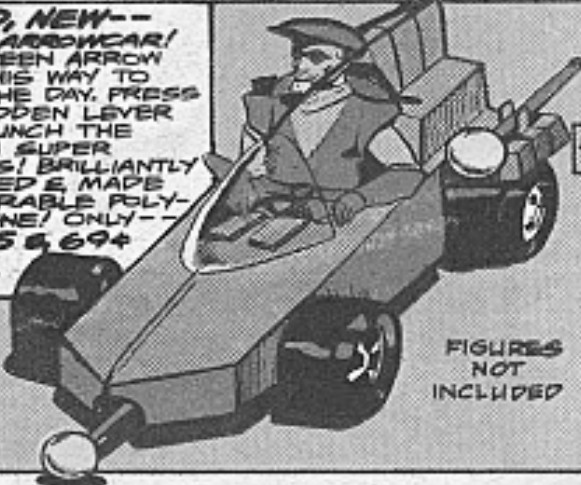
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FIGURES
NOT
INCLUDED

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FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK
TO FLY THE NEW, IM-
PROVED BAT PLANE!
COMPLETE WITH HIGH-
FLYING BAT-LAUNCHER!
IT GLIDES, SOARS, TURNS
TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT!
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IT WOULD'VE PAID TO DO IT, BUT INSTEAD THEY RESOLVED TO STEAL THE COINS! AND THE NUMISMATIC CONVENTION PROVIDED THE CHANCE!

GOODWIN--IN DISGUISE--MADE THAT DEAL WITH BIG JAKE--THE ONE HOUR CRIME-CURFEW IN EXCHANGE FOR TWO SURE VICTIMS!



THEY THEMSELVES WERE THE VICTIMS!

THEY HELPED BJ'S HOODS ROB THEM--AND THE CURFEW ASSURED MAXIMUM PUBLICITY!

BJ WAS PAID OFF BY THE ROBBERIES--EVERYTHING LISTED EXCEPT THE SAXONY COINS--WHICH, OF COURSE, GOODWIN AND FLETCHER STILL HAD!



THE PAPERS LISTED THOSE SAXONY COINS BOTH TIMES! TO AN ALARMED WHITFLEET, A MASTER CRIMINAL WAS INVINCIBLY ASSEMBLING THE COLLECTION!

ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, HE ALREADY HAD FOURTEEN COINS! OBVIOUSLY, WHITFLEET WOULD BE THE NEXT VICTIM!



WHITFLEET'S COINS WERE AT HOME, ABSOLUTELY SECURE IN A SECRET CELLAR VAULT!

NEVERTHELESS, THE NEWS ACCOUNTS SHOOK HIM SO BADLY, HE DECIDED TO SHIP HIS COINS ELSEWHERE!

THUS, WHEN ATLAS ARRIVED, GOODWIN AND FLETCHER WERE THERE, READY TO TAKE OVER--



--BUT SO WAS I!

AND NOW, COMMISSIONER, YOU CAN CALL IN THE NEWS VULTURES AND STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT!

EPILOGUE:

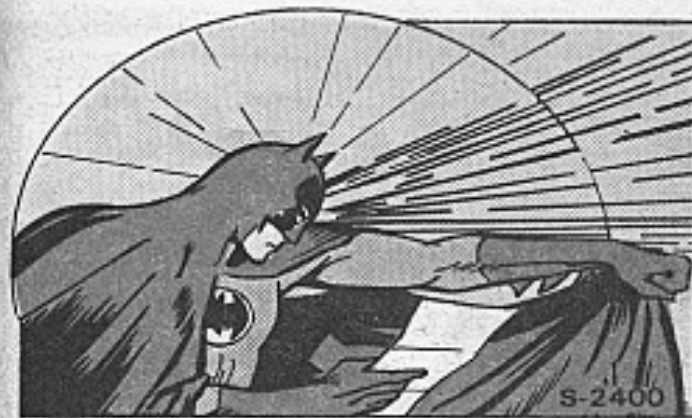


BUT, BRUCE, I BROUGHT ALL THESE LOVELY COIN CATALOGUES YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE...

LATER, NOLA...MUCH LATER...

END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE THE SECOND WEEK IN AUGUST.



LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Editor:

Usually, I can't stand Ernie Chua's covers. Why? Because there is no detail in them. But I definitely can't say that for **BATMAN #276**—the cover was beautiful, one of the best he's ever done.

Now for the inside—the art in "The Haunting of The Spook" was up to the usual par and the story was far above supreme. David V. Reed is your top writer in my opinion so don't you dare let him shift off Batman onto other mags.

As for The Spook, he is a great villain for Batman because he combines some of the traits of the Caped Crusader's other fantastic foes. The Spook is a genius (like Ra's al Ghul); he stumps his foe (like The Riddler); he has an overwhelming ego (like The Penguin); and he depends a lot on the supernatural (like The Scarecrow). I love his eyes, by the way. They show a lot of life for a man who was executed ten years ago!

You're on the right track with Batman—stay on it!

ROB SHERWOOD, Sharon, Pa.

(Most of our readers agree Dave's on the right Bat-track, but our next correspondent feels we've been derailed!—BR)

.....

Dear Editor:

David V. Reed has been scripting Batman stories for a year now and in that time he's proven himself quite capable of producing intriguing mystery-adventure tales. Why is it, then, that I get a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach every time I see his name on a Batman story?

The answer is, in a word, **CAMP!**

"The Haunting of The Spook" in **BATMAN #276** had the makings of a basically good story. Dave's treatment of the title character was much better than what we'd seen in previous spooktaculars. The Spook's plan to trick Batman into retiring was well-thought-out and his ghostly tricks were adequately explained as we went along.

Yet Reed chose to ruin this fundamentally sound story with the clichéd Bruce Wayne sub-plot which added nothing but a sense of déjà vu to the story, occasionally corny dialogue, and that inane Bat-beeper. Holy Bat-thermal underwear, Dave!

In case you've forgotten, David, The Batman doesn't make campy jokes with punk crooks anymore. He threatens them, but he doesn't joke with them. He may have a Batmobile, a Batarang, even a Whirlybat... but not a Bat-beeper! (Nor, for that matter, does he wear Bat-thermal underwear!)

BRYAN UHLENBROCK, Richmond, Ca.

(Nor does he have a TV-type Robin making Bat-puns on every page, Bryan! We feel that an occasional "campy" line does not detract from the story, but instead adds to it by breaking some of the tension. So look for more of the same in Dave's future scripts, but you can rest assured he won't go overboard.—BR)

Dear Editor:

Fantastic! The return of The Spook made **BATMAN #276** the best one David V. Reed has turned out so far, proving that he can work as well with Batman's costumed foes as he can with regular-looking crooks.

And I must compliment Ernie Chua. I usually don't go for his version of Batman, but this time he really did a great job. Now if Ernie would only go to work on Bruce Wayne—he could use a haircut and some better-fitting clothes!

MIKE CHRISTIANSEN, Rockford, Ill.

(Ernie claims he would dress just like Bruce if HE were a millionaire playboy, so that's how he's going to draw our hero!—BR)

.....

Dear Gothamites,

Bob Rozakis tells me that the anonymous David V. Reed is not Editor Schwartz's cousin Julian Shucks, I knew that! Reed is really the spy in the Galaxy Communications Building!

PETER SANDERSON, New York, N.Y.

(Wrong again, Peter, but our next LoCer has cracked the case!—BR)

.....

Dear Bob,

For the past few months you have been teasing readers with challenges and hints to the true identity of Coram Nobis/David V. Reed. I played the little game of scrambling the letters, tried to analyze his style, thought of other appropriate names, all to no avail. The mystery seemed too dark to penetrate.

Until I was reading Bill Bower's excellent fanzine **OUTWORLDS** and found out some rather interesting facts about early science-fiction fandom. What Robert Lowndes was writing about triggered a memory of the name of an early fantasy fan and pro writer. So I pulled out my copy of Sam Moskowitz's **THE IMMORTAL STORM** and looked up the name David V. Reed. (Ah, I should have remembered that Julius Schwartz used to be an agent for a number of sf writers!) Suffice it to say that I have finally solved the mystery. David V. Reed is really David Vern!

NICK A. GRASSEL, Ortonville, Mich.

(Legally, you're absolutely correct, Nick, but now, we'll start a new game among our readers: **WHO is David Vern?** More clues in upcoming issues from—Bob Rozakis)